

1 This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims
2 in the application:

3
4 **Listing of Claims**

5
6 Claim 1 (Original): A method comprising:
7 advertising a policy having one or more of assertions characterizing
8 communication properties of a destination node, each assertion specifying a
9 communication property supported by the destination node and selectable by a
10 source node to construct a communication protocol for communication with the
11 destination node.

12
13 Claim 2 (Original): A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the
14 advertising operation comprises generating a message including the policy.

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16 Claim 3 (Original): A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the
17 advertising operation comprises incrementally distributing the policy.

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19 Claim 4 (Original): A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the
20 advertising operation comprises generating a message including the policy in
21 response to a request for the policy.
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1 Claim 5 (Original): A method as recited in claim 1 further
2 comprising:

3 grouping two or more of the one or more assertions into a policy expression
4 in the policy;

5 specifying a relationship between the two or more assertions.

6
7 Claim 6 (Original): A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising
8 specifying a preference for at least one of the plurality of assertions over at least
9 one other of the plurality of assertions in the policy.

10
11 Claim 7 (Original): A method as recited in claim 1 further
12 comprising:

13 grouping two or more of the plurality of assertions into a first policy
14 expression;

15 specifying a first relationship between the two or more assertions in the first
16 policy expression;

17 specifying a second relationship between the first policy expression and at
18 least one other assertion not in the first policy expression.

19
20 Claim 8 (Original): A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising
21 generating an input policy having a plurality of assertions characterizing input
22 communication properties of the destination node and an output policy having a
23 plurality of assertions characterizing output communication properties of the
24 destination node.

1 Claim 9 (Original): A method as recited in claim 1, further
2 comprising determining whether a received message conforms to at least one of
3 the plurality of assertions.

4
5 Claim 10 (Original): A method comprising:
6 retrieving a destination node policy having a plurality of policy expressions
7 characterizing communication properties supported by a destination node;
8 generating a message that conforms to the policy.

9
10 Claim 11 (Original): A method as recited in claim 10, further
11 comprising selecting one of the plurality of policy expressions to be applied during
12 communication with the destination node.

13
14 Claim 12 (Original): A method as recited in claim 10, further
15 comprising determining whether one of the plurality of policy expressions is
16 compatible with a source node policy having a plurality of policy expressions
17 characterizing communication properties supported by a source node.

18
19 Claim 13 (Original): A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the
20 generating operation comprises generating a message including a source node
21 policy having a plurality of policy expressions characterizing communication
22 properties supported by a source node.

1 Claim 14 (Original): A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the
2 retrieving operation comprises retrieving the destination node policy from a node
3 other than the destination node.
4

5 Claim 15 (Original): A method as recited in claim 10 wherein the
6 retrieving operation comprises receiving the destination node policy incrementally.
7

8 Claim 16 (Original): A method as recited in claim 10, further
9 comprising:

10 creating a source node policy having a plurality of policy expressions
11 characterizing communication properties supported by a source node;

12 determining whether a received message conforms to at least one of the
13 policy expressions in the source node policy.
14

15 Claim 17 (Withdrawn): A system comprising:
16 a policy having one or more assertions characterizing communication
17 properties related to a first node; and

18 a policy generator generating the policy in response to a request for the
19 policy.
20

21 Claim 18 (Withdrawn): A system as recited in claim 17, wherein the
22 policy specifies an aggregate assertion representing a plurality of other assertions.
23
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1 Claim 19 (Withdrawn): A system as recited in claim 17, wherein the
2 policy specifies a Boolean relationship between at least two of the one or more of
3 assertions.

4
5 Claim 20 (Withdrawn): A system as recited in claim 17, wherein the
6 policy specifies a preference value related to a group of at least one of the one or
7 more assertions.

8
9 Claim 21 (Withdrawn): A system as recited in claim 17, wherein the
10 policy comprises an input policy having one or more assertions characterizing
11 input communication properties, and an output policy having one or more
12 assertions characterizing output communication properties.

13
14 Claim 22 (Withdrawn): A system as recited in claim 17, further
15 comprising a policy retriever retrieving a policy having one or more assertions
16 characterizing communication properties related to a second node.

17
18 Claim 23 (Withdrawn): A system as recited in claim 17, further
19 comprising a message generator operable to generate a message conforming to a
20 policy having one or more assertions characterizing communication properties
21 related to a second node.

22
23 Claim 24 (Withdrawn): A system as recited in claim 17 wherein the
24 policy comprises a uniform resource identifier related to one of the one or more
25 assertions in the policy.

1
2 Claim 25 (Withdrawn): A system as recited in claim 17 wherein at least
3 one of the one or more assertions specifies:

4 an integrity algorithm;
5 a privacy parameter;
6 a communication protocol;
7 an audit trail; or
8 a message routing path.

9
10 Claim 26 (Withdrawn): A computer program product encoding a
11 computer program for executing on a computer system a computer process, the
12 computer process comprising:

13 generating a policy specifying a plurality of assertions characterizing
14 properties of a destination node;

15 receiving a message conforming to one or more of the plurality of
16 assertions.

17
18 Claim 27 (Withdrawn): A computer program product as recited in claim
19 26, wherein the generating operation comprises generating an aggregate assertion
20 representing the plurality of assertions.

21
22 Claim 28 (Withdrawn): A computer program product as recited in claim
23 26, further comprising advertising the policy at an advertising node.
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1 Claim 29 (Withdrawn): A computer program product as recited in claim
2 26, further comprising distributing the policy in response to a request for the
3 policy.

4
5 Claim 30 (Withdrawn): A computer program product as recited in claim
6 26, wherein the generating operation comprises:

7 creating a group of two or more of the plurality of assertions;
8 specifying a relationship between two or more assertions in the group.

9
10 Claim 31 (Withdrawn): A computer program product as recited in claim
11 26, wherein the generating operation comprises specifying a preference for at least
12 one of the plurality of assertions over at least one other of the plurality of
13 assertions.

14
15 Claim 32 (Withdrawn): A computer program product as recited in claim
16 26, wherein the generating operation comprises:

17 creating a group of two or more of the plurality of assertions;
18 specifying a first relationship between the two or more assertions in the
19 group;
20 specifying a second relationship between the group of assertions and at least
21 one other assertion not in the group of assertions.

1 Claim 33 (Withdrawn): A computer program product as recited in recited
2 in claim 26 wherein the generating operation comprises generating an input policy
3 having one or more assertions characterizing input communication properties, and
4 an output policy having one or more assertions characterizing output
5 communication properties.

6
7 Claim 34 (Withdrawn): A computer program product as recited in claim
8 26 wherein the generating operation comprises generating a mark-up language
9 document.

10
11 Claim 35 (Withdrawn): A computer program product as recited in claim
12 26, further comprising determining whether the message conforms to at least one
13 of the plurality of assertions.